

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 6, 2003, in which claims 1-4, 8, and 11 are rejected and claims 12, 13 and 15 are objected to. Claims 1-4, 8 and 11 are cancelled. Claim 12 and dependent claims 13 and 15 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 1. Claims 16-19 have been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 12, 13 and 15 and new claims 16-19.

Rejection of claims 1-4, 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly obvious in view of the Craciunescu et al. reference (presented by Applicants in Paper No. 15).

Claims 1-4, 8 and 11 have been cancelled thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Applicant submits that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully request early favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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